करें और ग्राम स्तरों पर सतर्कता समितियां गठित करें। प्रधान मंत्री महोदय ने 1-1-92 को बाड़मेर में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को नया रूप देने के लिये एक योजना का शुभारंभ किया है । राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों तथा इस मंत्रालय द्वारा भी इस योजना की प्रगति की नियमित रूप से परिवीक्षा की जा रही है। अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को मजबूत और सुप्रवाही बनाने का कार्य एक निरन्तर जारी रहने वाली प्रक्रिया है ।

447 [*Transferred to the 6th March* 1992]

Changes in the Coal Policy

447. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the changes made in the Coal Policy since the budget 1991-92 was passed ;

(b) whether these changes have affected the economy adversely ; and

(c) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Coal assesses the demand of coal, plans the production programme and provides necessary help and guidance in the process of production and satisfaction of consumer demand. The coal policy of the Government thus aims at satisfying the coal demand by production of planned quantity of coal efficiently and economically with due regard to quality, safety, conservation and environment. There have been no changes in this position since the budget of 1991-92.

Shortage of Coal and other fuels in Bihar

448. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of coal and other fuels in most parts of Bihar particularly in Barauni Industrial Areas of Begusarai;

(b) whether Government have received any representation for opening a coal dump unit at Berauni Begusarai to meet out the fuel demand and for generating employment in these areas ; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to taken in meeting the public demand of the areas ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) According to available information there is no acute shortage of coal and other fuels in most parts of Bihar including Barauni Industrial Area of Begusarai. In line with the present policy on stockyards, Coal India Limited is encouraging and assisting the State Governments and their undertakings in setting up and managing coal stockyards. The initiative for setting up a coal stockyard at Barauni Begusarai therefore has to be taken by the Government of Bihar.

Losses suffered by Coal India Limited

449. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have increased the prices of coal to reduce the losses suffered by Coal India Limited ;

(b) whether Government have conducetd any study to find out the reasons for which Coal India has been incurring losses; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other measures are being taken to make the undertaking earn profit ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) The price of coal has been revised w.e.f. 28-12-1991 to recoup the increase in cost of production.

(b) Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recently started a comprehensive study of Coal Industry with a view to recommend suitable prices and other policy measures for the industry.

(c) Steps being taken to reduce the costs in Coal India Limited include :—

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement schemes.

(iii) The concept of 'all men—all jobs' is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(v) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) A number of systems improvements and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

Closure of coal mines suffering losses

450. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Nav Bharat Times (Patna edition) dated 24th January, 1992 captioned as "Ghate Wali 251 khadane band karne per vichar"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal for large scale closure of loss making mines.

Adverse effect of increase in price of Coal

451. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of coal have been increased in the month of December, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some State Electricity Boards have shut down their power stations due to the increased prices of coal ;

(c) whether Government are aware that this would have adverse effects on all the commodities; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken, so far, in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Coal is not aware if any such incident.